

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 1, line 24, please replace the paragraph beginning "None of said documents" that was added in the Preliminary Amendment filed December 28, 2001, with the following amended paragraph:

None of said documents recognizes the problem of the "saw tooth" wear arising in a tyre, particularly on the edges of the transverse grooves of the shoulders. This problem has been resolved by a high-performance tyre according to ~~claim 4~~ the present invention.

At page 5, line 8, please replace the paragraph beginning "The structure of the tyre" with the following amended paragraph:

The structure of the tyre is of the conventional type and comprises a carcass, a tread band located on the crown of said carcass, a pair of axially superimposed sidewalls terminating in beads reinforced with bead wires and corresponding bead fillers, for securing said tyre to a corresponding mounting rim. The tyre preferably also comprises a belt structure interposed between the carcass and the tread band. More preferably, the tyre of the of the type with a markedly flattened section, for example in the range from 0.65 to 0.30, where these figures express the percentage value of the ratio between the height of the cross right section of the tyre and the maximum chord of said section. In the art this ratio is usually referred to as H/C.

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At page 8, line 8, please replace the paragraph beginning "The particular shape of groove" with the following amended paragraph:

The particular shape of groove ~~406~~ 6, located on the outer edge of the tread, i.e. on the side which is on the exterior of the vehicle when fitted, also makes it possible to improve the wear-resistance of the shoulder of the tyre during severe use in cornering (at high speeds and radii), thus significantly reducing premature wear, particularly of the "saw tooth" wear phenomenon type, on the edges of the circumferential groove. This minimizes the usual degradation of the performance of the tyre due to wear.

At page 14, line 15, please replace the paragraph beginning "The test was conducted" with the following amended paragraph:

The test was conducted on a straight section of smooth asphalt of predetermined length with a film of water of predetermined constant depth which was automatically restored whenever the test vehicle passed through it. In a first step, the speed (km/h) at which the tyres started to ~~lose~~ loose adhesion was measured (V1); in a second step, the speed (km/h) at which there was total loss of adhesion was measured (V2).